withdrawn. Now we will go to the next Question, Q.No. 145, Shri Khagen Das. *(Interruptions)*

Nothing will go on record. *(Interruptions)* Nothing will go on record. *(Interruptions)* Nothing will go on record. *(Interruptions)* Question No. 145, Shri Khagen Das. *(Interruptions)*

Nothing will go on record. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Khagen Das. *(Interruptions)* Nothing will go on record. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Khagen Das. *(Interruptions)*

Deployment of Forces in Tripura

*145. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current deployment of forces in Tripura;

(b) whether the forces are adequate for counter-insurgency operation as well as manning the long international Indo-Bangladesh border; and

(c) how soon the forces as requested by the State Government are likely to be deployed in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The level of deployment of Border Security Force has been determined by the Central Government for various borders. However, due to internal security requirement particularly, in J and K and North-East, the deployment of BSF has been thinned down to some extent to meet this requirement.

The Central Para Military Forces are made available to assist the State Governments to maintain public order. The levels of deployment in any State depend upon the overall security situation and availability of these forces. Keeping in view these constraints the Central Paramilitary Forces to the extent possible

have been deployed in Tripura. It is not in public interest to indicate the details of these forces and their levels of deployment.

The Government have decided to augment the Central Paramilitary Forces in a phased manner over a period of five years. With such augmentation, deployment of CRPF shall be strengthened for counter-insurgency operation and of BSF at the respective borders.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: The hon. Home Minister has mentioned, from time to time, that Tripura is one of the most affected States in the country, in terms of incidents of terrorism. The efforts to solve the problem have not been commensurate with the gravity of the problem. In response to the question, 'how soon the forces, as requested by the State Government, are likely to be deployed in Tripura', the reply that has been given is that the Government have decided to augment the Central Paramilitary Forces in a phased manner, over a period of five years. On the other hand, Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the last three years, one battalion of the CRPF has been withdrawn from Tripura and deployed in some other State. Three battalions of the Army were there in Tripura; they have also been withdrawn. Now, the Minister has given a reply that the Government have decided to augment the Central Paramilitary Forces in a phased manner, over a period of five years. Whereas the forces, which were there in Tripura, have been withdrawn from there during the last three years. One battalion of the CRPF and three battalions of the Army have been withdrawn. Specific time-frame must clearly be spelt out here. I mean, specific time-frame within which the demand of the State Government would be met, as the counter-insurgency operation cannot wait further.

SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the level of deployment of forces in any State depends on the overall security scenario of the State, and also on the availability of forces with the Government. In Tripura, there are 12 battalions of the BSF. Ten battalions already exist there. So, there is a shortfall of only 2 battalions. It was affected because of the situation prevailing in the Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East area. So far as the Assam Rifles and the CRPF are concerned, only one more battalion

of the CRPF is required, which had been shifted. That will be adjusted according to the overall situation. This will be deployed after the assessment of the prevailing situation.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Is it a fact that one battalion of the CRPF and three battalions of the Army have been withdrawn from Tripura? If yes, why? Is it how you deal with counter-insurgency? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Then, you talk of POTO! (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO: Sir, so far as the CRPF battalion is concerned, last time, one extra battalion was given because of the post-Kargil situation. Because of the situation that prevailed in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East, it was felt that it was necessary. So, this will be assessed by the Central Government after taking into consideration the law and order situation in the State, and also the availability of forces. Then, they will be deployed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Who will assess it? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO: ...so far as the deployment of forces along the border is concerned...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Assessors are there. *(Interruptions)* No, Sir. *(Interruptions)* The Army, the Paramilitary Forces and the State-level Forces are assessing the situation there. *(Interruptions)* Accordingly, they give information to the Central Government. *(Interruptions)* A State-level Coordination Committee is there; and the Army is there. The Army, the Paramilitary Forces, the BSF and the State-level Forces are there. They assess the situation, and, accordingly, demand forces for deployment in Tripura.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I quite understand and appreciate the concern of the representatives of the State of Tripura about the situation there. The Chief Minister himself has been in constant touch with me. And, I am sure, the House would appreciate that we cannot discuss about the number of battalions that are deployed in a particular State;

whether they are one-short or two-short; and whether they are 12 or 14. We cannot discuss that here. We have been discussing with the State Government, with the MPs themselves, and you are aware that a situation does arise where redeployment has to be done. Such a situation arose in Manipur, because of which certain battalions had to be withdrawn and they were shifted to some other State. These things go on all the while. And these are matters which cannot be discussed in the House across the Benches. It would be better if the MPs come to me, discuss with me, as the Chief Minister does, and I would be able to explain to them what precisely is the situation. Tripura has certainly received the utmost attention from the Central Government all these three or four years that I have been here, and we would continue to give attention to that State. Though it should be realised that BSF is a force, which is primarily meant for border-protection and not for counter-insurgency measures, or, for internal security. But, nevertheless, because of the situation existing in Tripura, or, in some other States, we have been deploying even BSF for this purpose. I would, once again, like to assure the House that the concerns of Tripura are being attended to, and will be attended to.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Thank you, Sir. My second supplementary is this. The Central Government is aware that a large number of terrorist camps are located across our border, in the neighbouring countries. Frequently, the terrorists escape to that country after committing a terrorist act here. It is also conducive for the supply of arms and ammunition. Now, with this present strength of Force, one battalion of BSF is able to cover 85 kms. In Tripura and in the Western sector, one battalion of BSF is covering 15 to 20 kms. I want to know from the hon. Minister what effective steps are being taken to stop this cross-border terrorism.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Sir, it is in the context of what the hon. Member has just now said, that we have been discussing within the Government and with the Finance Ministry, particularly, that, over the years, the demand for deployment of more and more Paramilitary Forces by the States has been increasing, and it is mentioned in Para 3 that, "The Government have decided to augment the Central Paramilitary Forces in a phased manner over a period of five years."

We would be able to increase it substantially, but only in a phased period because, today, the allocation is very low, as you have yourself pointed out.

श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय गृह मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि सुरक्षा बलों की कमी के कारण त्रिपुरा, मिज़ोरम और बंगलादेश की जहां सीमा मिलती है, वहां बंगलादेश से एक विशेष वर्ग के लोगों ने क्या कुछ बस्तियां बसाई हैं और उन बस्तियों को बसाने में क्या भारतीय वन विभाग के किसी अधिकारी की भूमिका है, अगर इसकी जानकारी माननीय मंत्री जी को है तो उनकी इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO: Sir, this is a separate question. It is not related to this question.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that deployment or withdrawal of bottalions depend on the overall situation prevailing in the State. And, it has also been accepted that some battalions have been withdrawn from Tripura. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the overall situation in Tripura has improved substantially, and that the forces have been withdrawn from Tripura. This is number one. The second part of my supplementary is this. I must make it clear that such situations cannot be taken care of only by deploying forces. Some other measures that are, perhaps, not within the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs, are also required to be taken. So, the concerned Department should take note of this, and measures relating to development programmes in Tripura must be accentuated; otherwise, you will not be able to resolve this problem. I would request the hon. Minister to give a comprehensive reply to my question.

SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO: Sir, so far as deployment and re-deployment of the forces is concerned, it will be determined by the Central Government, after taking the overall security scenario of the State into consideration. Sir, the law and order situation in Tripura is not that serious. In the year 2000, the number of reported incidents was 826, but this year, it is 309. As far as BSF is concerned, because of withdrawal of BSF, there is a shortage of two battalions. As far as CRPF is concerned, before

Kargil, one extra battalion was deployed there. Therefore, there is no shortage, as far as CRPF is concerned. And, all this has not affected in controlling the law and order situation in Tripura.

श्री सूर्यभान पाटील वहाडणे: माननीय सभापति जी, मुझे अवसर दिया इसके लिए मैं आपका धन्यवाद करता हूं।

मेरा बिल्कुल छोटा प्रश्न है कि त्रिपुरा-कोलकाता हाइवे पर जो ट्रैफिक चलता है उसमें जो गुड्स ट्रक होते हैं, एक भी गुड्स ट्रक without protection of the police cannot go to Kolkata, या कोलकाता-त्रिपुरा आता नहीं है, बिल्कुल ऐसी गंभीर स्थिति है। क्या इसकी जानकारी गवर्नमेंट को है? एक और दूसरा सवाल है कि त्रिपुरा में आर०एस०एस० के चार प्रचारक मारे गए थे, क्या इसके बारे में कोई इंक्वायरी कमीशन बैठाया गया और इंक्वायरी कमीशन की क्या रिपोर्ट आई? अगर इसकी जानकारी हाउस को मिलेगी तो अच्छा होगा। ये मेरे दो छोटे सवाल हैं।

SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO: Sir, as far as the first part of the supplementary is concerned, Police and public order is a State subject, and the Central Government does not deal with it. And, as far as the killing of Pracharaks is concerned, I have taken note of that and information will be furnished to the hon. Member.

SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Sir, the Government must be aware of the recent crackdown by the military regime in Myanmar, and its impact on the North-Eastern States. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many such atrocities have been committed by the militants in Tripura during the last three months. What steps did the Central Government take to assist the State Government in maintaining law and order there?

SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO: Sir, the Central Government is assessing the law and order situation in Tripura, but, mainly, it has to be dealt with by the State Government. As far as the deployment of forces is concerned, I have already answered that. The Central Government is aware of the situation, and we are keeping a constant watch over the situation. We are also sharing the intelligence inputs from the State Government; and we are observing the situation. The situation is under control.